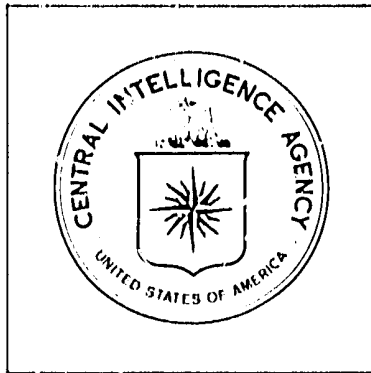


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## STAFF NOTES:

# Middle East Africa South Asia

DIA review(s) completed.

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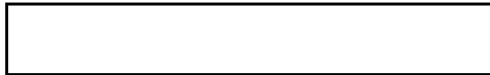
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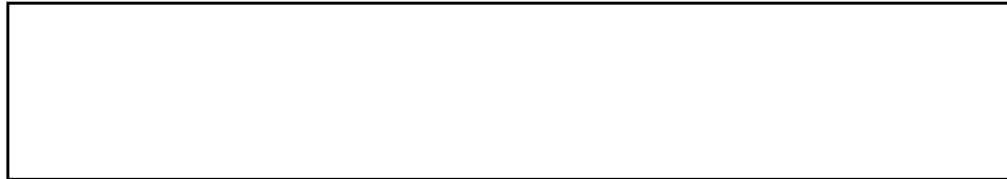
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MIDDLE EAST – AFRICA – SOUTH ASIA

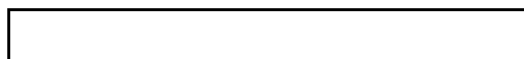


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Bahrain

*The Reluctant Democrats*

There are a number of indicators suggesting that the ruling al-Khalifah family's exasperation with Bahrain's constitutional experiment has reached the point where the Emir may take decisive action against the leftist opposition and the National Assembly, perhaps within the new few days. This could take the form of arrests of leftist deputies and perhaps the suspension or dissolution of the assembly.

When Emir Isa granted a constitution two years ago, he expected that the assembly would be a docile participant in the experiment with guided democracy. Bahrain's legislators, in fact, have taken their constitutional powers seriously and have resisted the government's efforts to have its way.

The ruler recessed the assembly in late June after months of wrangling over the government's security bill. The al-Khalifahs' lobbying and arm twisting failed to win legislators' approval of the bill and the session ended in a standoff between the executive and the legislature. The Prime Minister has acknowledged that the stormy session made little headway in solving the country's social and economic problems. Rancorous debate, moreover, over the presence of the US navy's Middle East Force prompted the government to depoliticize the issue by imposing a time limit on the stationing agreement.

Rumors that the Emir might dissolve the assembly have been heard before and the most recent stories may be deliberate leaks from the government intended to bring the deputies into line. There are indications, however, that Isa may have decided to take some tough measures to silence his critics both in and outside the assembly.

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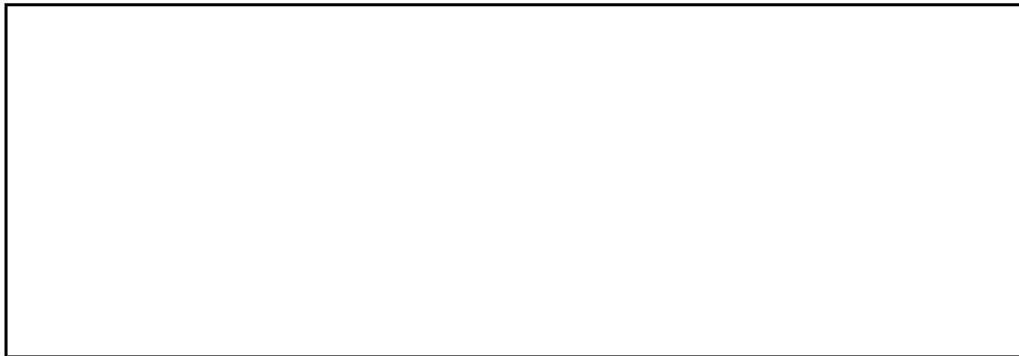
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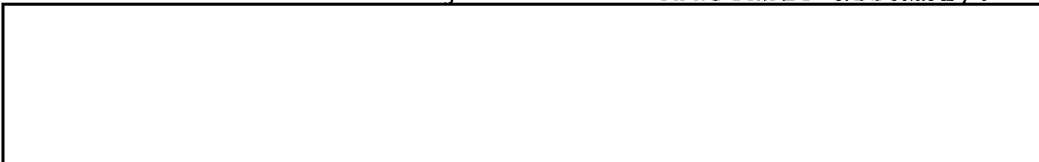
A roundup of leftists

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seems quite likely.

At that time it should become clearer whether the ruling family believes such a measure is sufficient for the moment or whether it also wants to be relieved of the burden of dealing with an intractable assembly.

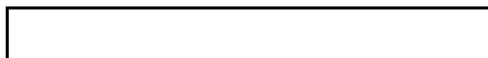
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Nigeria-North Vietnam

*Lagos Interested in Purchasing Captured US Arms*

A confidant of Colonel Yisa-Doka, the new head of the Nigerian air force, told the US air attache in Lagos recently that Nigeria plans to send a military team to Hanoi early next month to discuss the purchase of captured US military equipment. The Nigerians are particularly interested in F-5 fighters, Huey helicopters, M-16 rifles, and 105-mm. howitzers. The confidant asked if the US would be willing to provide spare parts for the equipment through the US foreign military sales program. The French embassy in Lagos has assisted the Nigerians in making contact with Hanoi.

Yisa-Doko, who allegedly was part of the coup group that ousted General Gowon last month, now sits on the Supreme Military Council and has long been an advocate of Western military training and equipment for the Nigerian armed forces. Nigeria is in the midst of a military re-equipment program that got under way last year. Purchases are being deliberately spread among both communist and Western countries, including the US, to limit over-dependence on any one supplier.

The Soviets reportedly are aware of Nigeria's planned approach to Hanoi. Moscow has been Nigeria's principal source of fighter aircraft since the recent civil war. During the war, Nigeria purchased a total of 35 MIG-17s and 5 MIG-15s.

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